San Diego City Attorney
MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2007
Contact: Maria Velasquez, Communications Director (619) 235-5725 mvelasquez@sandiego.gov

COUNCIL MEMBER HUESO MISREPRESENTS FACTS ABOUT KNOWING IMPACTS OF COUNCIL'S DECISION TO CUT CITY ATTORNEY'S BUDGET

San Diego, CA: Two neighborhood prosecutor positions, which serve the Fourth and Eighth Council Districts respectively, have been eliminated following a majority vote of the City Council to cut funding for 14 of the 17 supplemental deputy city attorney positions for Fiscal Year 2008, which begins July 1, 2007.

On June 11, 2007, Councilmember Ben Hueso voted with the Council majority not to fund the positions. Councilmembers Donna Frye and Tony Young opposed the cuts to the City Attorney's budget.

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Hueso, in a May 22, 2007, budget memorandum to Council President Scott Peters, said "…I support the Mayor in eliminating the 17 positions paid for with salary savings which technically do not exist."

Furthermore, on May 7, May 23, and June 6, City Attorney Michael Aguirre presented his budget to the City Council's Budget & Finance Committee and discussed the importance of continuing to fund the supplemental positions, which existed prior to him becoming city attorney in December 2004. The budget presentation also included a detailed list of those supplemental positions. Under City Attorney Aguirre, two of the supplemental positions were assigned to the Neighborhood Prosecution Unit and dedicated to neighborhoods in District 4 (September 2006) and in District 8 (November 2005).

"The fact of the matter is that Mr. Hueso brazenly turned his back on the residents of District Eight when he voted to eliminate the supplemental positions," said City Attorney Aguirre. "Calling it retaliation, he now desperately lashes out to find someone to blame. If it was, then why is Council member Young, who voted to keep the positions, also losing his assigned neighborhood prosecutor?" added the City Attorney.

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